

Primary Care Co-Commissioning Committee

Application from Limefield Surgery (P81214) for the Closure of a Branch Surgery

Date of Meeting 19 th September 2017		Agenda Item	11
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CCG Corporate Objectives	
Through better commissioning, improve local health outcomes by addressing poor outcomes and inequalities	✓
To work collaboratively to create safe, high quality health care services	✓
To maintain financial balance and improve efficiency and productivity	✓
To deliver a step change in the NHS preventing ill health and supporting people to live healthier lives	✓
To maintain and improve performance against core standards and statutory requirements	✓
To commission improved out of hospital care	
CCG High Impact Changes	
Delivering high quality Primary Care at scale and improving access	✓
Self-Care and Early Intervention	
Enhanced and Integrated Primary Care and Better Care Fund	✓
Access to Re-ablement and Intermediate Care	
Improved hospital discharge and reduced length of stay	
Community based ambulatory care for specific conditions	
Access to high quality Urgent and Emergency Care	
Scheduled Care	
Quality	✓

Decision Recommendations

The committee is asked to approve closure of the branch surgery, Cherry Tree Surgery subject to completion of consultation with patients and local stakeholders.

Clinical Lead:	Dr Malcolm Ridgway
Senior Lead Manager	Mr Peter Sellars
Finance Manager	Mrs Linda Ring
Equality Impact and Risk Assessment completed:	To be completed
Patient and Public Engagement completed:	Ongoing
Financial Implications	n/a
Risk Identified	n/a
Report authorised by Senior Manager:	Dr Malcolm Ridgway

Application from Limefield Surgery (P81214) for the Closure of a Branch Surgery

Fusion House

19 September 2017

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present the application received from Limefield Surgery to close its branch surgery at Cherry Tree Surgery, 513 Preston Old Road, Blackburn, BB2 5NU with effect from 1 October 2017

Background and Summary of Application

The practice currently holds a GMS contract with two partners, Dr H Brown and Dr K Burn. Dr K Burn has currently submitted documentation to resign from the practice. This would result in Dr H Brown being a single handed GP with a list size of 4,160 patients

Opening Hours

The table below details the opening hours for the main practice site

Day	Extended Hours (if applicable)
Monday 08:00am – 18:30pm	
Tuesday 08:00am – 18:30pm	07:30am – 08:00am
Wednesday 08:00am – 18:30pm	07:30am – 08:00am
Thursday 08:00am – 18:30pm	07:30am – 08:00am
Friday 08:00am – 18:30pm	

The list sizes for the practice are listed below:

Year (June)	List size
2017	4,183
2016	4,272
2015	4,469
2014	4,506
2013	4,600

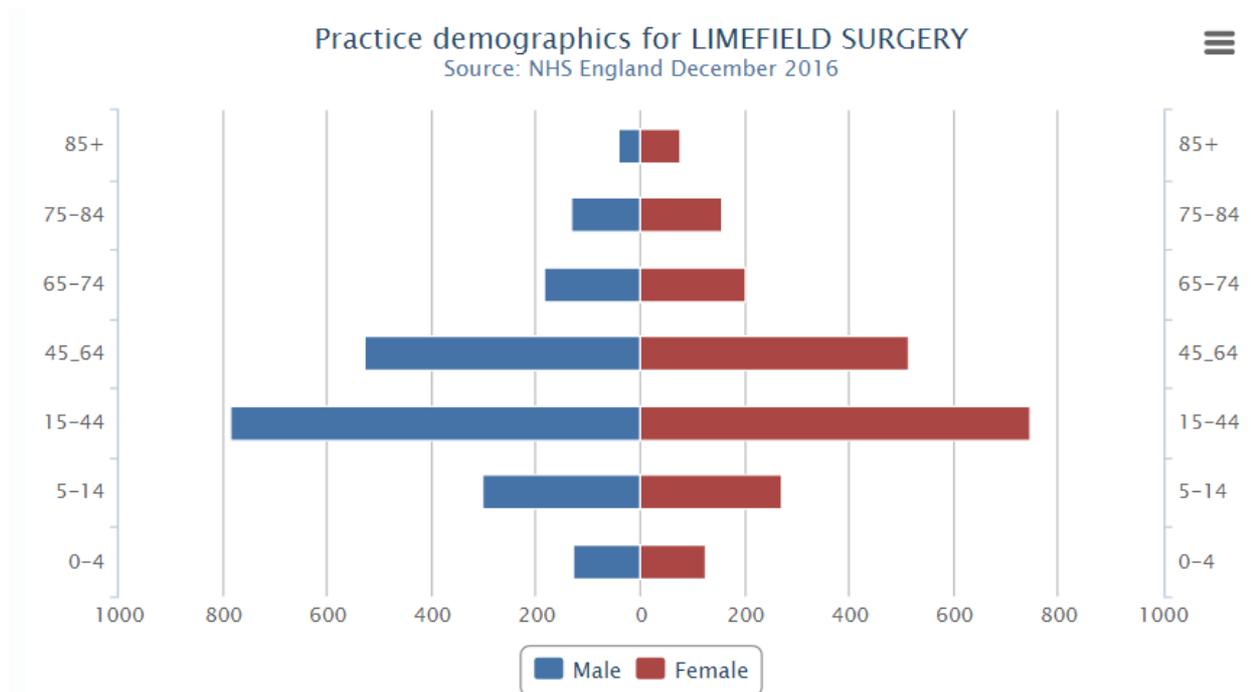
Policy

The NHS England Policy Book for Primary Medical Services, January 2016, should be followed to consider this application. Policy context is attached at Appendix A.

Current Situation

The practice is requesting to close the branch surgery with effect from 1 October 2017. The practice branch surgery currently only opens at key times when the main surgery site is closed.

The information below details the practice age distribution.



The table below provides details of GP practices near to the main Limefield Surgery Site and the 513 Preston Old Road Site.

NHS Choices			
Practice	Distance	Registered patients	Would recommend the surgery
Limefield Surgery	0.0	4,192	72.5% - In the middle range
Redlam Surgery	0.5	4,928	83% - In the middle range
Witton Medical Centre	0.7	10,221	81.8% - In the middle range
Dr Moodie's Practice	0.7	9,668	88.9% - Among the best
Dr Phillips	0.7	4,353	Data not available

NHS Choices			
Practice	Distance	Registered patients	Would recommend the surgery
Cherry Tree Surgery	0.0	4,192	72.5% - In the middle range
Bentham Road Health Centre	0.9	5,411	88.6% - Among the best
Witton Medical Centre	1.2	10,221	81.8% - In the middle range

NHS Choices			
Practice	Distance	Registered patients	Would recommend the surgery
Cherry Tree Surgery	0.0	4,192	72.5% - In the middle range
Redlam Surgery	1.4	4,928	83% - In the middle range
Dr Mathur and Partner	1.6	4,811	72% - In the middle range

Primary Care Strategy

Strategically Blackburn with Darwen CCG is planning for larger practices to operate primary care at scale as part of new models of care development. The closure of the branch surgery aligns with the CCG's strategic intent.

Patient Consultation

The practice has consulted individually with patients and discussions have been held with the Patient Participation Group (PPG).

A copy of the patient consultation letter sent to patients is attached at Appendix B.

Other Stakeholder Consultation

The Local Medical Committee (LMC) and the local MP have been notified of the issue and comments have been requested. These will be presented to the Committee once received.

Local practices have been written to in order to gain their views on the proposed closure of the list. Comments will be presented to the Committee once received.

Recommendation

The committee is asked to approve closure of the branch surgery, Cherry Tree Surgery subject to completion of consultation with patients and local stakeholders.

Sarah Danson
Primary Care Manager
NHS England

Steven Harris
Project Officer
NHS England

Appendix A - Policies/Regulations

The NHS England Policy Book for Primary Medical Services, January 2016, should be followed to consider this application.

Chapter 6 section 15 of the policy detail the process which should be followed:

- 15.7 The closure of a branch surgery may be as a result of an application made by the contractor to the Commissioner or due to the Commissioner instigating the closure following full consideration of the impact of such a closure.
- 15.8 In the circumstances that the Commissioner is instigating a branch closure, the Commissioner must be able to clearly demonstrate the grounds for such a closure and have fully considered any impact on the contractors registered population and any financial impact on the actual contractor. The Commissioner will be expected to demonstrate that they have considered any other options available prior to instigating a branch closure and entering into a dialogue with the contractor as to how the closure is to be managed. The Commissioner will need to have complied with the duty (under section 13Q of the NHS Act) to involve patients in decision-making before any final decision to close a branch is made.
- 15.9 Where a contractor wishes to close a branch surgery, the contractor should have preliminary discussions with the Commissioner to determine appropriate and proportionate patient involvement requirements prior to the consideration of such a service provision change. Even though the closure is being instigated by the contractor, the Commissioner will still need to comply with the section 13Q duty to involve patients in decision-making before any final decision is made.
- 15.10 The closure of a branch surgery would be a significant change to services for the registered population and as such the Commissioner and the contractor should engage in open dialogue in the first instance to consider the consequences and implications of the proposed change and discuss any possible alternatives that may be agreed between them. At this stage the duty to involve the public in proposals for change is triggered and the Commissioner and contractor should work together on fair and proportionate ways to achieve this. The Commissioner should ensure clarity on what involvement activities are required by the contractor.
- 15.11 Contractor and Commissioner discussions resulting ultimately in a decision about a branch closure will often include consideration of (but not be limited to):
 - 15.11.1 financial viability;
 - 15.11.2 registered list size and patient demographics;
 - 15.11.3 condition, accessibility and compliance to required standards of the premises;
 - 15.11.4 accessibility of the main surgery premises including transport implications;
 - 15.11.5 the Commissioner's strategic plans for the area;

- 15.11.6 other primary health care provision within the locality (including other providers and their current list provision, accessibility, dispensaries and rural issues);
- 15.11.7 dispensing implications (if a dispensing practice);
- 15.11.8 whether the contractor is currently in receipt of premises costs for the relevant premises;
- 15.11.9 other payment amendments;
- 15.11.10 possible co-location of services;
- 15.11.11 rurality issues;
- 15.11.12 patient feedback;
- 15.11.13 any impact on groups protected by the Equality Act 2010 (for further detail see chapter 4 (General duties of NHS England));
- 15.11.14 the impact on health and health inequalities; and
- 15.11.15 any other relevant duties under Part 2 of the NHS Act (for further detail see chapter 4 (General duties of NHS England)).

Appendix B – Patient Consultation Letter

Drs Burn & Brown

Limefield Surgery 293/295 Preston New Road, Blackburn, Lancs, BB2 6PL

It is with sadness that we inform you we have contacted our local CCG to look into closing our branch surgery at Preston Old Road. We feel that Preston Old Road is close to becoming unsuitable to provide the service our patients require and deserve. We will outline our reasons for making this difficult decision below. If you are a regular user of Preston Old Road, or if you have used the premises in the past, you may be wondering how this will affect your care. Hopefully these concerns will be addressed here.

Why do we feel the time has come to close the branch Surgery at Preston Old Road?

You may be aware that we have been in discussions with Redlam Surgery and Witton Surgery regarding a proposed merge, this merge would be in approximately 18 months – 2 years and we would at this time be providing all our services from a new purpose built building. The proposed site for the building is on Spring Lane at the old Griffin Lodge building.

It is increasingly difficult for us to meet all the health and safety regulations imposed upon us. The building at Preston New Road and Preston Old Road are not purpose built to deliver healthcare and we have had to continually adapt these premises over the years. We have gladly undertaken these changes, but we are at a point where we have concerns that the buildings are no longer suitable to provide modern healthcare.

We have consulting rooms on the first floor but no lift facility at either premises and this causes obvious difficulties for patients who cannot, or struggle, to climb stairs. We try to provide clinics on the ground floor whenever possible, but this will never cater for everyone's needs. Asking patients with mobility problems to climb stairs or have the GP and Nurse swap rooms mid-clinic are both unacceptable situations.

Having our resources divided between two sites is not an efficient way for us to operate. We are unable to provide a full range of clinics at Preston Old Road due to space and equipment issues.

What will happen to patients who use Preston Old Road?

Preston New Road will continue to look after all the patients in our practice. Our geographical area is not changing and we will continue to provide care for patients who have used Preston Old Road. There will be no reduction in the number of appointments we offer or any change to the Doctors or Nurses you normally see.

Patients would continue to be able to order and collect prescriptions from their chosen pharmacy. We provide an electronic service so that your prescription can be forwarded directly to the pharmacy of your choice – this will avoid you having to travel to Preston New Road to collect your prescription, or, you can request the pharmacy to collect your prescription on your behalf – you can arrange for the pharmacy to deliver your prescription – you would need to arrange this directly with the pharmacy of your choice.

For housebound patients and those too unwell to travel we would continue to provide home visits for Preston Old Road patients, the same as we currently do for Preston New Road patients.

It is a shame things have to change. Preston Old Road has always been a part of our surgery and we have been doing clinics in the current building for 20 years but times have change. We appreciate that this decision will inconvenience a group of our patients that use Preston Old Road regularly but we have to keep the best interests of all our patients at the centre of what we do. There have never been greater pressures on General Practice and we need to use our resources in the most effective way. That is why we have taken the difficult decision to start this process.

In addition we are working with the local CCG to try to arrange that (particularly) Preston Old Road patients could continue to see their existing Doctor at Redlam Surgery as well as Preston New Road. This has the considerable advantage of being just one bus ride (approximately 6 bus stops) from Preston Old Road surgery – therefore much easier to get to.

Before these changes are confirmed we would like to hear your views on what the closure would mean to you. If you have any worries about your continuing healthcare then please let us know and we will do all we can do to alleviate your concerns.

Please use the space below for your comments.